

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY TEXT RECEIVED FROM WHITE HOUSE -

APPROVED BY S/S-R.E.WOODS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 253549

E.O. 11652: GDS

OVIP (PRESIDENT GERALD FORD)

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: REUTERS PARTICIPATION IN U.S. PRESS PARTY TO

VLADIVOSTOK

FOR AMBASSADOR STOESSEL

1. AS RESULT CONVERSATION SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD WITH
AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN, SOVIETS HAVE AGREED TO ALLOW 70
AMERICAN NEWS REPRESENTATIVES ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT TO
VLADIVOSTOK.

2. SOVIET EMBASSY HERE IS BALKING AT ALLOWING US CITIZEN
LARS ERIC NELSON TO REPRESENT REUTERS IN PRESS PARTY
ARGUING THAT REUTERS IS NON-US NEWS AGENCY.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET PRESS KAMENEV, RON NESSEN
POINTED OUT THAT IN HIS UNDERSTANDING OF KISSINGER-
DOBRYNIN DISCUSSION, SUBJECT COVERED WAS AMERICAN CORRES-
PONDENTS; THAT REUTERS HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERED BY
WHITE HOUSE TO BE DOMESTIC WIRE SERVICE SINCE IT HAS A
LARGE NUMBER OF AMERICAN CLIENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY;
THAT, IN FACT, IT IS IN DIRECT COMPETITION WITH AP AND
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UPI IN THE UNITED STATES; THAT NELSON IS AN AMERICAN

CITIZEN; AND, THAT WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN FORTHCOMING IN A VIRTUALLY UNPRECEDENTED FASHION IN AGREEING TO REDUCE SUBSTANTIALLY THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CORRESPONDENTS WHO WOULD NORMALLY ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT ON A VISIT OF THIS SIGNIFICANCE.

4. KAMENEV WAS INFORMED THAT THE REUTERS REPRESENTATIVE IS TRAVELING TO JAPAN IN ANY EVENT AND THAT A SOVIET VISA COULD BE ISSUED THERE.

5. KAMENEV AGREED TO RELAY OUR POSITION TO MOSCOW AND ASK FOR CLARIFICATION. KAMENEV SUGGESTED THAT WE ASK YOU TO MAKE A PARALLEL EFFORT THERE.

6. IT IS REQUESTED THAT YOU RAISE THIS MATTER AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN THE MFA, PRESENT THE POINTS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4, URGE A FAVORABLE RESPONSE, AND ASK THAT THE DECISION BE COMMUNICATED TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN MOSCOW. KISSINGER

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